

CUBA TRAVEL WARNING

US/Cuba Friendshipment Caravan XV July 2004

Consistent with United States foreign policy goals of permitting shipments of humanitarian goods to Cuba, the Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC") has authorized the exportation of specific goods from the United States to Cuba as part of this Pastors for Peace caravan. This authorization also permits up to three persons to engage in travel-related transactions with Cuba so they may accompany the shipment to oversee its safe delivery to the intended recipient, on condition that Pastors for Peace provide the names and addresses of the authorized travelers to OFAC's representatives in Hidalgo in advance of their departure from the United States.

WARNING

All other caravan participants traveling to Cuba may be in violation of Cuban Assets Control Regulations and subject to criminal prosecution and/or OFAC civil penalties. Only travelers licensed by OFAC may engage in Cuba travel-related transactions. Cuban travel-related transactions include payments for visas and entry and exit fees as well as day-to-day expenditures for lodging, local transportation, airfare aboard Cuban carriers, meals, etc. The prohibition on spending funds in Cuba includes prepaying an individual or organization for Cuba travel costs as well as any type of reimbursement for such costs after the trip. The prohibitions against transactions in Cuba also include the provision of services to Cuba or a Cuban national. Only persons in the following categories are authorized by general license to engage in Cuba travel-related transactions or provide services in connection with travel to Cuba.

1. Officials of the U.S. government, foreign governments, and international organizations of which the U.S. is a member traveling on official business;
2. Full-time journalists and supporting personnel regularly employed by a news reporting organization;
3. Full-time professionals performing professional research in their areas or attending professional meetings or conferences in Cuba.

All other categories of travelers require a specific license from OFAC for Cuba travel-related transactions.

Effective June 30, 2004:

- There is no longer a general license for family visitation.
- There is no longer an exception for fully hosted travelers whose expenses are paid by a person not subject to U.S. jurisdiction.
- Cuban cigars, rum and other Cuban products are prohibited imports. There is no longer a general license authorizing licensed travelers to bring \$100 worth of Cuban goods back into the U.S. All Cuban-origin goods are subject to seizure except for informational materials. Informational materials include books, magazines, films, posters, photographs, recorded tapes and CDs, records, and works of art.

Anyone who engages in unauthorized travel-related transactions with Cuba is doing so in violation of the Cuban Assets Control Regulations.

Travelers returning to the United States from Cuba are subject to inspection and questioning by U.S. Customs and Border Protection at the Port of Entry. Cases involving unlawful Cuba travel-related transactions not pursued criminally will be referred to OFAC for civil enforcement action. Upon return, the traveler may receive a letter from OFAC requiring a detailed report on his/her travel-related transactions involving Cuba. OFAC has issued hundreds of civil penalties in connection with unlawful travel-related transactions in Cuba. Civil penalties of up to \$65,000 may be assessed for each violation.